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**WILLIAMS BROTHERS SENTENCED TO LENGTHY PRISON TERMS
ARISING FROM ARSON ATTACKS ON THREE
SACRAMENTO SYNAGOGUES AND A HEALTH CLINIC**

SACRAMENTO—The United States Justice Department announced today that BENJAMIN MATTHEW WILLIAMS, 33, and his brother JAMES TYLER WILLIAMS, 31, of Palo Cedro, California, were sentenced in Sacramento by U.S. District Court Judge Garland E. Burrell to lengthy prison terms today in connection with their convictions for setting arson fires at three Sacramento synagogues and a building containing a clinic that provides reproductive health services, during the summer of 1999. BENJAMIN MATTHEW WILLIAMS was sentenced to 30 years in prison, to be followed by a three year term of supervised release, a fine of \$10,000, and an assessment of \$200. JAMES TYLER WILLIAMS was sentenced to 255 months in prison, or approximately 21 years, to be followed by a three year term of supervised release, and an assessment of \$800. The brothers were ordered to pay restitution to the victim organizations in the amount of \$1,001,255, for which they will be jointly liable. Parole has been abolished in the federal criminal system, and the WILLIAMS brothers will be required by law to serve at least 85 percent of the prison time imposed.

The sentences imposed today resolve the federal prosecution of the WILLIAMS brothers arising from the arson fires at Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom, and the Keneset Israel Torah Center, which fires were set in the early morning hours of June 18, 1999, and an arson fire at a medical building that contained offices including the Choice Medical Group clinic which was set during the early morning hours of July 2, 1999.

Homicide charges against both defendants are still pending in the Shasta County Superior Court. Trial in that matter is currently scheduled for April 2, 2002.

Several representatives of the victims addressed the Court. "All we wanted to be was a normal congregation in America," Rabbi Bloom of the Congregation B'ani Israel said. Addressing the WILLIAMS brothers, he told them, "we will ultimately grow from what you did in Sacramento. In the America we all love, there is no room for your bigotry."

Lou Anapolsky told the WILLIAMS brothers that they were, "poor students of history."

Throughout our history, our sanctuaries have been destroyed, but the Jewish people have persevered." Rabbi Etzhasadeh of the Keneset Israel Torah Center, and Len Feldman of the Jewish Community Relations Council also addressed the Court.

In sentencing JAMES TYLER WILLIAMS, Judge Burrell said that WILLIAMS intended, "to cause the victims of his hate to cower in fear of further attacks." His, "repeated acts of blazing violence," Judge Burrell said, warranted the maximum available sentence.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorneys R. Steven Lapham and Benjamin B. Wagner, who prosecuted the case, BENJAMIN MATTHEW WILLIAMS and JAMES TYLER WILLIAMS, by their pleas of guilty, admitted to setting all four arson fires. Both attorneys cited the support and cooperation of the victims for helping to ensure a successful outcome of the prosecution.

U.S. Attorney John K. Vincent said "The lengthy prison sentences imposed today should send this message to those who disseminate ideologies of hatred: this society will not tolerate violence perpetrated in the name of hate."

FBI Special Agent in Charge Richard Baker said "Today's sentences close a difficult chapter in our area's recent history. Crimes motivated by intolerance or hate strike at the heart of our society, but we can all be proud of the way this community and its law enforcement representatives joined together to combat these senseless crimes."

John A. Torres, Special Agent in Charge for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, praised the work of law enforcement. "The Sacramento community is a safer place due to the personal and professional commitment and resourcefulness of the men and women of the various law enforcement agencies that brought this investigation to a successful conclusion."

The prosecution was the product of an extensive investigation by a joint task force led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Other agencies that contributed to the investigation include the U.S. Secret Service, the Sacramento Sheriff's Department, the Sacramento Police Department, the Sacramento District Attorney's Office, the Shasta County Sheriff's Department, the Sacramento City Fire Department, the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Department, and the California Highway Patrol.

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